

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 260715Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 209

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCOMSUL MADRAS

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E.BJM 11652: NGPA

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PINT

SUBJ: MRS GANDHI ON INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

SUMMARY: MRS GANDHI TOLD MEXICAN JOURNALISTS JULY 23 THAT "IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHAT PART" THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE OPPOSED THE GOI'S NON-ALIGNMENT POLICY "ARE PLAYING IN THE PRESENT CONDITIONS". SHE ALLEGED THAT THE OPPOSITION HAD RECEIVED MONEY AND PUBLICITY FROM EXTERNAL

SOURCES. SHE

APPLAUDED PROGRESS TOWARD UNITY AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED, OBSERVED THAT "SOME OF THE AFFLUENT COUNTRIES" SEEMED TO RESENT THIS, BUT ADDED THAT THIRD WORLD UNITY "IS NOT AGAINST ANYBODY." ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, SHE DEFENDED THE EMERGENCY, REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON WHEN IT WILL END, AND COMMENTED THAT CONGRESS RULE IS INDISPENSABLE TO NATIOMDL SECURITY.

SHE DENIED THAT INDIA POSSESSES AN ATOM BOMB AND REPEATED THE INDIAN POSITION ON PEACEFUL USES.

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END SUMMARY.

1. BELOW ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF TWO JULY 23 INTERVIEWS
MRS GANDHI HAVE TO MEXICAN JOURNALISTS AND MEXICAN T.V
ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT ECHEVARIA'S STATE VISIT TO INDIA.
THE FULL TEXT OF HER REMARKS WAS REPRINTED IN THE JULY 25
EDITION OF THE CONGRESS PARTY NEWSPAPER, NATIONAL HERALD.

2. INTERNATIONAL: IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE POSSIBLE
INVOLVEMENT OF "ONE OF THE IMPERIALISTIC POWERS" IN INDIA'S
CURRENT PROBLEMS, MRS GANDHI RESPONDED, "WELL, IT IS TRUE

SOME COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY AGAINST INDIA'S POLICIES,
SPECIALLY THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY
WHAT PART THEY ARE PLAYING IN THE PRESENT CONDITIONS. BUT WE
DO KNOW THAT SOME

OF THE OPPOSITION MEMBERS AND
LEADERS HAVE RECEIVED MONEY FROM OUTSIDE AND THEY HAVE BEEN
RECEIVING FULL SUPPORT AND IN FACT THEY HAVE BEEN BUILT UP BY
THE PUBLICITY GIVEN IN A SECTION OF THE FOREIGNPRESS."
LATER, WHEN ASKED IF THERE HAVE BEEN "AN INTERNAL
PROVOCATIONS. . . .SPONSORED BY ANY FOREIGNPOWER"
SHE REPLIED "IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO SAY HOW MUCH HELP OR
INFLUENCE THERE IS FROM ANY FOREIGN POWER."

3. IN PHILOSOPHIZING ABOUT THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND
MAHATMA GANDHI, SHE STATED, I THINK THAT NON-ALIGNMENT IS A
POLICY WHICH HE WOULDHAVE LIKED, THAT IS, TO TRY TO BE
FRIENDS WITH ALL COUNTRIES.

4. ON THE THIRD WORLD SHE STATED: "THE AFFLUENT COUNTRIES
NATURALLY LOOK AT THE WORLD FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, WHEREAS
EACH COUNTRY IS CONDITIONED BY ITS GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND
ITS HISTORICAL TRADITIONS AND EACH COUNTRY MUST DECIDE FOR
ITSELF WHERE ITS INTERESTS LIE. SOME OF THE AFFLUENT COUNTRIES
HAVE BEEN DIRECTING THE WORLD'S AFFAIRS OR TRYING ALL THESE
YEARS AND NOW WHEN THERE IS GREATER UNITY AMONGST THE NON-
ALIGNED, THEY DON'T LIKE IT VERY MUCH ALTHOUGH WE THINK THAT
OUR UNITY IS NOT AGAINST ANYBODY. WITH THE RESOURCES AND KNOWL-
EDGE WHICH THE WORLD HAS WE COULD ALTOGETHER HELP TO RAISE
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NWSNONS#AND THAT WOULD NOT REDUCE THE STRENGTH OF
THE BIG POWERS. ON THE CONTRARY IT WOULD MAKE FOR A BETTER WORLD
AND FOR FAIR OPPORTUNITIES TO EVERYBODY."

5. DOMEYOC: MRS GANDHI REITERATED AT LENGTH THE ALLEGED
PROVOCATION THAT MOVED HER TO DECLARE THE EMERGENCY. SHE

EMPHASIZED SEVERAL TIMES HER COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY, BUT ARGUED THAT THE OVERT AND COVERT EFFORTS BY THE OPPOSITION TO UNDERMINE HER FREELY ELECTED GOVERNMENT HAD GONE BEYOND ACCEPTABLE LIMITS. SHE ARGUED THAT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED STRIKES AND VIOLENCE AND APPEALS TO THE POLICE AND ARMY TO DIS-OBEY ORDERS LEFT HER NO CHOICE. THE "VAST MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE" WELCOMED THE EMERGENCY. DISCIPLINE IS NO BEING RESTORED. "MANY PEOPLE" BELIEVE THE EMERGENCY IS OVERDUE, SHE CLAIMED, AND REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON WHEN IT WILL END. SHE ALSO COMMENTED THAT "THERE IS NO ONE POLITICAL PARTY OTHER THAN OURS WHICH CAN HOLD THE COUNTRY TOGETHER.

6. NUCLEAR: MRS GHANDI WAS ASKED TWICE WHY INDIA HAD DEVELOPED AN "ATOM BOMB." BOTH TIME MRS GANDHI DENIED THAT INDIA POSSESSES THE BOMB. SHE REPEATED THE INDIAN

POSITION THAT THE MAY, 1974 EXPLOSION WAS CARRIED OUT TO ADVANCE INDIAN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TO "DEVELOP NATURAL RESOURCES."

7. COPIES OF NATIONAL HERALD ARTICLE CARRYING FULL TEXTS HOF INTERVIEW BEING POUCHED TO NEA/INS AND INR/SOA. SAXBE

NOTE BY OC/T: PARA 4 (##)AS RECEIVED.

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